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Dukakis Introduction

Max S. Baucus

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(1) Subject*: Academy Nominations

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BAUCUS

Dukakis Introduction

Friday, June 3, 1988

Butte, Montana

Thank you. It's great to be here to celebrate the Democratic Party. It's good to be among friends and talented people.

Nancy Reagan's stars may be in the heavens, but ours are right here tonight. And they all will shine in November!

More than a quarter of a century ago, John Kennedy showed us a new frontier. In his inaugural address, Kennedy said that "a torch was being passed to a new generation" of American leadership.

For many Americans, Kennedy ignited the idealism of youth, challenged the ambitions of the Republic, and touched the hearts of those who believed public service is a noble pursuit.

He created the Peace Corps and began a new wave of voluntarism -- soon Americans of all ages were reaching out to others less fortunate, both here and in other countries.

Since then -- for more than two decades -- the firey spirit that Kennedy ignited in Americans dwindled -- like the embers of a campfire waiting for a fresh log to feed its flame.

All of us are weary of Hollywood on the Potomac. The Gipper fanned the flames of the campfires in his movies. But he's failed to rekindle the American spirit.

It's time to hang up the golden parachutes and dust off the golden rule. It's time to stop playing hard ball and start making hard choices. I don't want to see America brace herself for the next century; I want to see her race for it, with Democrats leading her across the finish line.

We're ready to return to the ideals of John Kennedy. I can feel it in this room -- I've

sensed it across the state -- and I hear it around the country.

Here at home we're already well on our way. The Democratic Party is choosing the men and women who will inspire and lead us. Our candidates run on records of ability, decency, and hard work.

Nancy Keenan -- An educator and a good friend. I know she will keep Montana's schools among the best in the nation.

Mike Cooney -- Soon to be one of Montana's finest Secretaries of State. I can tell you from personal experience that no one is more dedicated to serving people than Mike.

Mike McGrath -- An excellent county attorney committed to keeping our young people out of the the criminal justice system. He'll be a great attorney general.

Pat Williams -- His strong leadership in the House of Representatives continues to bring honor to Montana. His colleagues respect him for his

honest, straight-forward approach to grappling with and conquering the challenges that confront our country.

And soon Pat will be joined by another rising star: Buck O'Brien. Buck will send that other guy packing, and maybe then Marlenee will learn that Montanans aren't "a bunch of hicks with big wives and ice cream smeared kids."

John Melcher -- Our senior Senator. He brings his own down home politics to the Senate. John fights for the rancher, the farmer and the family. He fights for Montana, and he wins.

And our candidates for governor, clerk of court and other offices. The party has some excellent choices. Deciding on Tuesday will be difficult. It will be like going into the North Star or S and L's and trying to pick your favorite flavor of ice cream.

And, finally, even though he won't be on the ticket this fall, not enough can be said about our Governor, Ted Schwinden. For the last eight

years, Ted has listened to Montanans and talked straight about our problems and our dreams.

He has reached across the Pacific to shake hands with our Asian trading partners. He has opened doors to the Far East so they will do business here in the Far West.

Ted has set a strong example for his Democratic successor.

I know you just returned from your trip Ted, and I know you must be tired. We appreciate your work because it will pay Montana dividends in the years to come.

Let me turn now to our special guests tonight: The Reverend Jesse Jackson who is here with us and Mike Dukakis who will join us via satellite in a few minutes.

Jesse Jackson has made an enormous contribution to the Democratic party. By having the courage to keep up the fight, he has brought

many back into our fold. Jesse has touched all of us with his vision for America.

Jesse cares about civil rights.... about housing the homeless.....about education for all generations of Americans....and he demands justice from the Justice Department.

Jesse speaks the truth -- even when that truth is hard to face. That's what brings fear to the hearts of the other side.

All Democrats should be proud of what Jesse Jackson has done for our party, and for our country. The debate is richer because of him, and as a result, our party offers more to the American people.

But how are we going to rekindle our ideals? How are we going to confront what Jack Kennedy asked us to do for our country?

I think the answer lies in the dawn of the new frontier that is before us now. Indeed, the answer lies in yet another son of Massachusetts.

When Mike Dukakis speaks of the next American Frontier, he calls us to "the market place of international competition." He knows that whether it's selling beef to Japan, wheat to the Soviets, or computers to Saudi Arabia -- to win, Americans must learn to compete, not just with themselves, but with the world.

That's why he's right for Montana. He is a leader who will help us invest in ourselves and our state -- and then stand at our side to cheer our good fortune.

Under a Dukakis Administration, Montana won't get just a handshake; we'll get a partner because Mike knows what Montanans want and need -- JOBS -- good jobs and fair wages; economic opportunity and development; good education; a clean environment; and a government that cares about the ethics our forefathers cherished.

In a Dukakis Administration, we won't see the likes of James Watt who ravaged the environment -- or Ed Meese who has smeared the integrity of our Justice Department -- or Don Hodel who thinks

Foster Grants and Coppertone will solve the ozone problem.

In a Dukakis Administration, no U.S. Marine will stand before Congress and tell the American people it's okay to lie.

And in a Dukakis Administration, the American dream will not just be for the Wall Street wiz kids. It will be for the miner, the rancher, the teacher, the outfitter, the logger and anyone who dares to dream and work for it.

Next year is Montana's 100th birthday. Since 1889, we've voted in 24 presidential elections and sided with the winner 19 times. And that's exactly what we're going to do again when we deliver Montana for the Democrats on November 8th!!!

When I endorsed Mike in March and asked him to come to Montana, I really wanted him to come to Butte -- not just to eat a pasty, but to see first-hand a town that just won't quit.

You folks here in Butte don't know when you're licked because you never have been. Under the steady hand of Don Peoples, you have done more than just pull yourselves up by the bootstraps -- you've designed a whole new boot, you're building it, and soon you'll be selling it to the Japanese.

PAUSE -- MIKE WILL BE BROUGHT UP ON THE SCREEN.

Before we trust our fate to the miracle of satellite technology, I want to say, Mike, how much we wish you could be with us in person. But there's not a soul in this room who doesn't understand that your first priority today is your family.

We all hope that Kitty's surgery this morning went well. We send our best to her and our wishes for a speedy recovery.

We're very pleased to have your son John with us.

HAVE JOHN STAND UP AND BE ACKNOWLEDGED.

TURN TO ONE OF THE SCREENS....

And now ladies and gentlemen, it's my honor
and privilege to present to you the next President
of the United States, the Honorable Michael
Dukakis!